

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 REYKJA 00126 011125Z

12

ACTION CU-04

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R 311730Z JAN 75  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5148  
INFO USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 0126

FOR CU/WE

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: OEXC IC  
SUBJECT: EUROPEAN JOURNALIST TOUR: ICELANDIC NOMINATION

REF: STATE 277523, STATE 9953, REYKJAVIK 83

1. MISSION NOMINATES AS PRINCIPAL AND ALTERNATE CANDIDATES FOR DEPT/USIA EUROPEAN JOURNALISTS TOUR (1) MAGNUS FINNSSON, ECONOMIC SPECIALIST OF DAILY MORGUNBLADID, (2) JONAS KRISTJANSSON, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, DAILY VISIR. MISSION PREFERS TO FUND FROM FY-76 IVP ALLOTMENTRN THEREFORE PREFERS AUGUST TOUR. IF NEED BE, MISSION COULD NOMINATE FOR MARCH TOUR WITH FY-75 FUNDS IF DEPARTMENT COULD LATER IN FY REIMBURSE THIS AMOUNT TO PROTECT MISSION'S PLANNED LABOR LEADER VISIT.

2. PRINCIPAL NOMINEE IS MAGNUS FINNSSON, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST OF MORGUNBLADID, INDEPENDENCE PARTY DAILY WHICH WITH CIRCULATION OF 43,000 LITERALLY REACHES EVERY HOUSEHOLD. FINNSSON BORN REYKJAVIK 1940, GRADUATED REYKJAVIK JUNIOR COLLEGE 1963, STUDIED ECONOMICS AT UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND 1963-1967. BEGAN AT MORGUNBLADID 1963, FULLTIME SINCE 1965. FINNSSON HIGHLY REGARDED BY PAPER'S EDITORS, REGARDED AS COMPETENT BY ICELANDIC ECONOMISTS, AND WAS PAPER'S PRINCIPAL REPORTER BOTH OF 1972-73 "COD WAR" WITH UK AND OF ECONOMIC POLICIES DURING ICELAND'S LEFTIST GOVERNMENT 1971-74. VIRTUALLY CERTAIN FINNSSON WOULD BE ABLE TRAVEL IN AUGUST, LESS CERTAIN IF MARCH TRAVEL WOULD BE PERMITTED BY PAPER. MARRIED, THREE CHILDREN, GOOD  
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ENGLISH, HAS TRAVELED EXTENSIVELY IN WESTERN EUROPE BUT NEVER

TO U.S.

3. ALTERNATE NOMINEE IS JONAS KRISTJANSSON, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF DAILY "VISIR," WITH 23,000 CIRCULATION ICELAND'S SECOND LARGEST PAPER AND ONLY ONE NOT FORMALLY REPRESENTING A PARTY VIEW (ALTHOUGH IT GENERALLY TAKES INDEPENDENCE PARTY POSITION). KRISTJANSSON, 35, HAS HAD BRILLIANT EDITING AND PUBLISHING CAREER, DEVELOPING VISIR FROM MINOR POSITION TO MAJOR ECONOMIC AND JOURNALISTIC INSTITUTION. KRISTJANSSON IS SOCIOLOGY GRADUATE OF A WEST GERMAN UNIVERSITY AND IS HIGHLY COMPETENT IN FISCAL, ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS AREAS. MARRIED TO ASSISTANT EDITOR OF ICELAND'S MAJOR FAMILY MAGAZINE, ONE CHILD, EXCELLENT ENGLISH, HAS TRAVELED EXTENSIVELY IN WESTERN EUROPE. ONLY U.S. VISIT WAS SHORT BUSINESS TRIP TO CHICAGO AND NEW YORK NOVEMBER 1974. KRISTJANSSON HAS RUN FOR LOCAL OFFICE ON INDEPENDENCE PARTY TICKET, IS POTENTIAL FUTURE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT.

4. NAME CHECK BOTH NOMINEES OKAY.

5. ADVISE WHETHER APPROVED FOR FY-75 OR FY-76.  
MARTIN

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